tree-tax was raised from Rs. 3 and Rs. 6 to Rs. 3/8 and Rs. 7 per half year in the case of cocoanut and sago and from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per year in the case of palmyra. The number of special shops granted this year was only 36,11 less than the number for the last year. The field staff has been doing good work so far as prevention of crime is concerned and the number of abkari cases detected is 609 up-to-date, i. e., 30th June 1929, as compared with total number 632 last year. In addition to this whenever inconveniences are reported on account of the location of shops, they have been invariably ordered to be removed from public road-side, churches, etc., to less objectionable sites, thereby minimising the chances for drink.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—It is stated in the answer that the number of special shops granted this year is 36, that is, 11 less than the number for the last year. May I know whether the shops referred to were allowed under Temporary Licenses?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—Yes.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—With reference to the last portion of the answer, they have been invariably ordered to be removed from public roads, churches, etc., may I know how many such shops have been removed?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—Several have been removed. I do not remember the exact number.

Local Option.

67. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state after making necessary enquiries whether the Government of Travancore have accepted the principle of Local Option and taken steps to give effect to it in Changanacheri; and if so,

(2) (a) whether the Government of Cochin have also accepted this principle ;

(b) whether the Government have given sanction to introduce in the Legislative Council a Local Option Bill ; if not, why is it that the sanction has not yet been given ;

(3) whether orders will be passed either refusing or granting permission for introducing in the Legislative Council the Local Option Bill before the next Legislative Session, and if not, why not ; for how many years this matter has been pending the decision of the Government?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—(1) The Travancore Government are only trying local option as an experimental measure in Changanacheri. They have also fixed 2 drams of country spirits as the limit of private possession in Changanacheri.

(2) (a) Not so far.

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(b) No, as the question of giving sanction to the Bill has been deferred, till orders are passed on the report of the Excise Committee.

(3) No definite promise can be given. The matter has been pending for about 3 years.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Has not the Hon'ble Member for Excise stated in this Council that we are following the policy of Travancore and British India in the policy of Excise and whether they follow such policy?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—Generally, as far as possible, we follow the Excise policy of Travancore and British India.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What are the exemptions?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—That has not been considered. Generally their policy is followed. If the Hon'ble Member would point out any specific instance, then only is it possible to say whether it is followed or not.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Are we now following the Travancore Government with regard to the Excise policy?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—We follow generally their policy; but there may be changes in some respects.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Have the Government understood quite well the policy followed by the Travancore Government?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—Yes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In what way do we differ from them?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—I cannot say off-hand. I want notice.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is the Government aware that the Travancore Government are trying local option in Changanacheri?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—Yes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew. -Whether our Government have tried it here also, and whether they have done anything?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—We have done more here. I can say that in Ernakulam we are trying.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What is the result of it; whether the Government found it successful or unsuccessful?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—It is too early to say one way or the other.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—As regards Ernakulam, for how many years has it been in existence?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—Two or three years.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—How many years are necessary to know whether it would be successful or unsuccessful?

Mr. C. V. Antony.—No definite answer can be given.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—But then any indefinite answer can be given.

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